

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
ACCORDING TO 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)

APPLICANT: Heinfried Hoffmann, et al.      DOCKET NO: P04,0153  
SERIAL NO.: 10/840,114      ART UNIT: 2857  
FILED: May 6, 2004      EXAMINER:  
CONF. NO.: 7271  
TITLE: METHOD AND DEVICE TO TEST THE OPERATION SAFETY OF A  
PROCESS CONTROL DEVICE

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.98, Applicant respectfully requests that a citation and examination of the references identified on the attached PTO 1449 form be made during the course of examination of the above-identified application for United States Patent.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed according to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b) and before the latter occurrence of:

- (1) three months from the filing date of a national application;
- (2) three months from the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.491 in an international application; or
- (3) the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.

**REMARKS**

The attached PTO 1449 form lists related art references for the above identified application. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(ii), no copies of the U.S. patent documents are being supplied herewith, but will be provided upon request.


### EXPLANATION OF RELEVANCE

References AL-AP were cited during the prosecution of the priority application. An English-language Derwent abstract has been provided for reference AO—a full translation will be produced at the request of the Examiner. Reference AA is a U.S. Patent corresponding to reference AL. Reference AB is a U.S. Patent corresponding to reference AM. Reference AC is a U.S. Patent corresponding to reference AN. Reference AD is a U.S. Patent corresponding to reference AP.

The filing of the present Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, and is not to be construed as an admission that the information cited in the present Information Disclosure Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

The above citation of related art is not a representation that such art constitutes a complete or exhaustive listing of all pertinent related art, nor that it necessarily includes the closest or most relevant art. The aforementioned citation comprises a voluntary citation of related art of which applicant and his attorney are presently aware and is not intended to serve as a substitute for the Examiner's own search.

Submitted by,

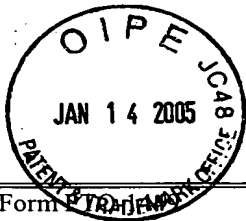
 (Reg. No. 45,877)

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### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on January 11, 2005.





Form 1 <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION</b> (use several sheets if necessary)					Docket No. <b>P04,0153</b>		Serial No. <b>10/840,114</b>	
					Applicant <b>Heinfried Hoffmann, et al.</b>			
					Filing Date May 6, 2004		Group Art Unit 2857	
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>								
Examiner's Initials		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If appropriate	
	AA	6,512,960 B1	1/28/2003	Schulz				
	AB	4,601,199	7/22/1986	Denz				
	AC	5,880,565	3/9/1999	Watanabe				
	AD	6,119,515	9/19/2000	Kemmler et al.				
	AE							
	AF							
	AG							
	AH							
	AI							
	AJ							
	AK							
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>								
		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
							Yes	No
	AL	199 21 828 C2	11/23/2000	Germany			See AA Abst.	
	AM	3 435 465 A1	2/13/1986	Germany			See AB Abst.	
	AN	198 11 844 A1	6/2/1999	Germany			See AC Abst.	
	AO	101 08 233 A1	9/19/2002	Germany			Abst.	
	AP	196 43 297 C1	10/21/1996	Germany			See AD Abst.	
	AQ	44 19 548 B4	12/7/1995	Germany			Abst.	
	AR	WO 99/21066	4/29/1999	PCT				
	AS							
<b>OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</b>								
	AT							
	AU							
	AV							
	AW							
Examiner			Date Considered					
<b>*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</b>								